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NPIC/TDS/D-750-67
22 March 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Chief, Development Staff, TDS

THROUGH : Chief, Support Systems Branch, DS/TDS

SUBJECT : Evaluation of Special Drying Techniques - Microwave
and Vacuum Drying.

25X1A 1. On 8 March 1967 a call was made to Westover AFB. Contact was made
with [REDACTED] Discussion included all commercial organizations the
Air Force had contacted in relation to microwave and vacuum drying.

25X1A a. [REDACTED] indicated
25X1A that [REDACTED] of Wright-Patterson AFB would be aware of
25X1A the work in microwave drying by this [REDACTED] firm and by the
25X1A [REDACTED]

25X1A b. [REDACTED] This cor-
poration built a 35mm microwave dryer for the movie industry.
They lack interest in continuing a development program for
wider photographic materials.

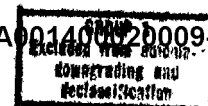
25X1A c. [REDACTED]
25X1A Microwave Dryer Proposal [REDACTED]
indicated that this particular concept held little promise.

25X1A d. [REDACTED]
25X1A [REDACTED] informed us that [REDACTED] had performed
25X1A some experimental tests in drying photographic materials in
25X1A microwave waveguides designed for other purposes. He also
25X1A gave us a contact [REDACTED] and also indicated
25X1A that [REDACTED] had conducted vacuum drying experiments.

25X1A 2. 13 March 1967 [REDACTED] was contacted. A
25X1A discussion was held on microwave drying and what photographic applications had
25X1A been considered. [REDACTED] indicated that preliminary experiments in
25X1A microwave drying of films had been performed but that this area of work had
25X1A been transferred to another department headed by [REDACTED] He indicated
that [REDACTED] would have knowledge of work performed with vacuum drying.

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3. On 14 March 1967 [REDACTED] was contacted. [REDACTED] was aware of the previous experiments performed by [REDACTED] in utilizing microwaves for drying photographic films; although work had not continued in this area when the transfer of this responsibility occurred. [REDACTED] was asked if any work is being performed in vacuum drying. He indicated that [REDACTED] was involved in a combination of microwave and vacuum drying but not in the photographic area. [REDACTED] knowledge of drying photographic materials is limited.

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4. On 14 March 1967 [REDACTED] of Wright-Patterson AFB was contacted. [REDACTED] and his department are involved in monitoring the contracts for Westover in microwaves and vacuum drying.

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a. An investigation contract in vacuum drying is being conducted for Wright-Patterson AFB by [REDACTED] in Calif. Vacuum chambers used in food processing are being utilized in the drying experiments of photographic films. Separate experiments are being conducted to maintain a vacuum in an unheated chamber where film is moved in and out of a gate.

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b. The best information on microwave drying equipment or breadboards [REDACTED] could be obtained from [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]

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5. On 14 March 1967 [REDACTED] (Limited) was contacted. [REDACTED] explained that they have built a 9 1/2" microwave film dryer breadboard prototype that utilizes 1800 watts of power and runs at about four feet per minute. This can be demonstrated at any time. In [REDACTED] there is a dryer for paper prints using microwave techniques and runs at two feet per minute. Neither the film nor paper dryer have been exposed to color materials.

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6. As the only prototype equipment utilizing microwave techniques, paralleling our requirements, is in [REDACTED] would be desirable to determine the application of these techniques to our own requirements within NPIC. Travel orders are being prepared for this trip.

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7. An attempt was made to contact [REDACTED] of Westover AFB. [REDACTED] is on TDY for several weeks. He will be contacted when he returns.

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